Thomas A. Edison Papers Digital Edition

Edison-Miller Family Records

Family Records Series, Part V

[F5F23-F] Thomas A. Edison Estate (1932-1935)

Family Records Series -- Edison Family Papers -- Mina Edison Papers

Title
[F5F23-F] Thomas A. Edison Estate (1932-1935)

Description
The selected items in this folder cover the years 1932-1935. Included is a memorandum by John V. Miller, Edison's brother-in-law and secretary of his estate, regarding a conference held at Glenmont on February 16, 1932. Among the topics discussed in the memorandum are the report of the International Memorial Committee, the placement of a Japanese lantern at Edison's grave, the continuation of his rubber experiments at Fort Myers, and the progress of Wilber B. Huston, Arthur O. Williams, Jr., and other winners of the Edison scholarship contest. A March 1932 letter from Miller to his sister Mina Miller Edison reports on the progress of the rubber work. Other items by Miller and by coexecutors Charles and Theodore Edison pertain to the financial and legal status of Edison's estate, including the disposition of his stock in the Llewellyn Park Improvement Association and his membership in the Essex County Country Club.

URL

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Identifier

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Type

Family Records

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Family Records Series -- Edison Family Papers -- Mina Edison Papers

Alternative Title

Thomas A. Edison Estate (1932-1935)

Has Version

Archive.org Viewer, Microfilm Series Reel 286

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[F5F23AA], Will, John Vincent Miller, February 16th, 1932

Title
[F5F23AA], Will, John Vincent Miller, February 16th, 1932

Author
Miller, John Vincent

Mentioned

- National Electric Light Assn
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Alumni Assn
- Mutual Life Insurance Co of New York
- Edison, Thomas Alva, (Estate)
- Edison, Charles
- Huston, Wilber Brotherton
- Edison, Theodore Miller
- Edison, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.)
- Mitsui & Co Ltd
- Williams, Arthur O, Jr

Date
1932-02-16

Type
Will

Subject

- Edison-Miller family
- Finances (TAE and family)
- Photographs and autographs
- TAE death and funeral
- TAE will and estate
- Rubber research

Folder ID
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Document ID
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Timestamp
16 February 1932

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https://edisondigital.rutgers.edu/iiif/2/F5F23AA/manifest

Mrs. T. A. Edison

ESTATE OF THOMAS A. EDISON

Conference at Glenmont

9:30 to 11:30 A.M., Feb. 16, 1932.

1. Insurance

Letter dated February 13 from the Mutual Life Insurance Co., New York, turned over to J. V. Miller to present at a later conference.

2. Milan House

Decided not to discuss the disposition of the Birthplace for the present.

Purchase of the house and lot adjoining the birthplace to be made by Thomas A. Edison, Inc., General Division. J. V. Miller to arrange for the purchase of same.

3. International Memorial Committee

Mrs. Edison presented a letter from C. Raymond Lyons, 41 Paterson St., New Brunswick. N. J., Secretary, Commissioners of Edison Park, referring to first report of the Commissioners. Mrs. Edison, after receiving and reading same, will forward to J. V. Miller, who in turn will forward to Mr. William Orchard, Chairman of the Orange Committee, for his information and action.

4. Japanese Lantern for Cemetery

Mrs. Edison referred to correspondence with Mitsui & Co. relative to a Japanese Dedicatory Lantern which the Electrical Association of Japan is desirous of presenting for placement at the grave of Mr. Edison. After discussion, the letter was referred to J. V. Miller for acknowledgment and for statement to the effect that no plan has as yet been decided upon, waiting on the plans of proposed International Memorial Committee, which is to be organized for the purpose of harmonizing all suggestions for a memorial and working out some memorial or memorials satisfactory to the various proposers and to Mrs. Edison and her family.

Mrs. Edison suggested that Mr. Mitsui of Japan be made a member of either the General Memorial Committee or the International Committee and this name passed on to Mr. Orchard for his consideration.

5. Rubber Experiment

Mrs. Edison brought up the matter of the rubber experiment and the continuation of same. Mr. Charles Edison reported that a report had been made up by J. V. Miller covering the present status of the experiment, a copy of which was submitted to Mrs. Edison. This report is to be sent to Mr. Ford and Mr. Firestone and a meeting at an early date arranged with these men to come to some final conclusion relative to the future program.

6. Cemetery Lot

Mrs. Edison brought up the question of fencing in the lot and also the planning of shrubbery, etc. No definite plan was agreed to, but J. V. Miller is to find out if an iron fence can be erected entirely enclosing the lot.

7. Automobiles

Mrs. Edison asked advice relative to return of old Lincoln Touring car to Mr. Ford. Her suggestion, that the car be sent to Florida and remain there for use during her visits, was agreed to.

Also spoke about "Gustavus Adolphus". It was agreed that this should be sent to the garage at Glenmont for storage for the present and that the later model of Ford Open Touring Car be sent to the Laboratory for use there.

Also, Mrs. Edison mentioned the matter of the old Suburban car, and it was agreed that the Laboratory should recompense her for same.

8. Secretarial Work

Mrs. Edison brought up the matter of the cost of the secretarial work at Glenmont during the fall and winter and also at the Laboratory. She explained that Miss Humble, Miss Galloway and Miss Halley had done a great deal of work in acknowledging the letters of sympathy and also in arranging the files and newspaper clippings, etc. for the museum. Also, that one set of clippings was made up for the Laboratory. She thought that some of this expense should be carried by either the Incorporated or the Estate. After discussion it was decided that the expense of acknowledging the letters, telegrams, etc. should be borne by the Estate and the time put on purely museum work would be borne by Mrs. Edison. J. V. Miller is to write Miss Humble for a fair distribution of the work.

9. Scholarships

J. V. Miller presented reports from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology for the first term 1931-32 covering the work of Wilbur B. Huston, Arthur O. Williams, Jr., Ivan A. Getting and Gordon K. Burns. All of these reports showed most excellent grading of these men. The reports were retained by J. V. Miller to be assembled with former reports. Mrs. Edison suggested that it would be fine to have these framed and placed in the museum when the reports of the four years are all received.

10. Allowances to Members of the Family

J. V. Miller reported that at a conference with Messrs. Charles Edison and Theodore Edison it was decided that these allowances be paid out of the pension fund of Thomas A. Edison, Inc. until otherwise arranged.

11. Guards at Cemetery

J. V. Miller reported that at a conference with Messrs. Charles Edison and Theodore Edison it was decided that the cost of the guards at the cemetery will be borne by the Estate.

12. Expenses at the Edison Plant at the time of Mr. Edison's Funeral

J. V. Miller reported that at a conference with Messrs. Charles Edison and Theodore Edison it was decided that the Estate would pay the bill presented by Thomas A. Edison, Inc. covering the cost of guards, police, floral decorations in the library and guards at the cemetery. The bill rendered by the Incorporated includes the cost of guards up to January 15 and precedes the bill referred to in item 11.

13. Batchelder Bust of Mr. Edison

J. V. Miller presented a letter from Mr. H. H. Barnes of New York referring to the bust of Mr. Edison presented by friends and former associates to Mrs. Edison and the family. The bust is now in the library and Mr. Barnes asks whether or not a pedestal is desired. It was decided that the bust should remain in the library and that the offer of these gentlemen of a suitable pedestal be accepted. J. V. Miller to write to Mr. Barnes to this effect.

14. Requests for Photographs

Mrs. Edison brought up the matter of requests from schools and other organizations for photographs of Mr. Edison. J. V. Miller stated that this matter was under advisement by Mr. Charles Edison. J. V. Miller explained that he had passed on to Mr. Charles Edison Mrs. Edison's remarks in connection with the proposal of the National Electric Light Association to send out a pamphlet showing various photographs of Mr. Edison which could be purchased from the photographers or through the Association. Mrs. Edison's reaction to this was that possibly this was a commercial thing and the Association would derive profit from handling these photographs. It was Mrs. Edison's thought that if any profit or commercialization of these photographs was to be made that the Edison family should handle it. Mr. Charles Edison is acting along this line.

J. V. Miller

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[F5F23AB], Letter from John Vincent Miller to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, March 8th, 1932

Title
[F5F23AB], Letter from John Vincent Miller to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, March 8th, 1932

Author
Miller, John Vincent

Recipient
Edison, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.)

Mentioned

- Edison, Charles
- Edison, Theodore Miller
- Ford, Henry
- Firestone, Harvey Samuel
- Edison, Thomas Alva

Date
1932-03-08

Type
Letter

Subject

- Edison-Miller family
- Rubber research

Folder ID
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Timestamp
8 March 1932

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Edison Botanic Research Corporation

Thomas A Edison

ORANGE, N.J., U.S.A.

March 8, 1932.

Mrs. Thomas A. Edison,
Fort Myers,
Florida.

Dear Mrs. Edison:

In your recent note you questioned what was doing on the rubber experiment. A while ago we gave you a report showing what work had been done and some of the most interesting results up to the end of last year. I believe you have this report with you. Copies of this same report were sent to Messrs. Charles Edison, Theodore Edison, Ford and Firestone.

A few days ago Mr. Charles Edison endeavored to arrange a meeting with Messrs. Ford and Firestone at Detroit, Akron or here, but due to Mr. Ford's intensive work on the new car in Detroit and Mr. Firestone's absence in Florida, the meeting could not be arranged, at least for a while.

I have written up a letter to be sent to Messrs. Ford and Firestone, asking for a further contribution to continue the experiment until summer. This letter is waiting for Mr. Charles Edison's approval before sending it, but I hope that we can send it in a day or two and have funds sufficient to carry on, at least for a while.

I have come to the conclusion, in looking over reports and studying various data which we have on hand, that possibly we are planting considerably more plants and beds than are really necessary to carry on the work at this stage of the game. A few beds of each of the most promising plants may be sufficient to continue in the hope of building up the percent of rubber, that is, by from year to year selecting the best yielders and replanting, etc. Of course, a few beds should be reserved for experimental work purely. It is my hope that at this meeting with Mr. Ford and Mr. Firestone we may come to some definite conclusion as to just how we can proceed and, also, I have hopes that we can arrange to carry on the experiment on a larger scale, in anticipation of a real practical mill or factory for the field. I am working up a sort of program which we hope to present at the meeting whenever we can hold it. In the meantime I suppose we shall have to continue the work just as it is going along at the present time and as Mr. Edison directed.

As you will see by the report, we have gotten some very good samples, which have yielded as high as 9% and even a higher percent of rubber. The weight of some of these plants is very good too, therefore, the yield of rubber per acre is good. I will keep you informed of the prospect of having a meeting in the near future.

Yours very sincerely,

J. V. Miller

JVM/IWW

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[F5F23AB1], Will, Madeleine Edison, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, March 15th, 1932

Title
[F5F23AB1], Will, Madeleine Edison, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, March 15th, 1932

Author
Edison, Madeleine

Recipient
Edison, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.)

Mentioned

- Pohatcong Railroad Co
- Edison Cement Corp
- Allen, Ralph Henry
- Lanahan, Henry
- Edison, Thomas Alva
- McCarter, George C W

Date
1932-03-15

Type
Will

Subject

- TAE will and estate
- Management (companies and organizations)
- Property
- Ore milling and separation

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15 March 1932

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ESTATE OF THOMAS A. EDISON

Status of administration as of March 15th, 1932.

No adverse legal action by heirs is anticipated.

Preliminary report or return has been made to Washington.

Agreement has been reached with appraisors appointed by Surrogate Court as to values and prices of asset items.

Report to Surrogate Court of value of estate has been made up and is in process of typing. This report will be finally passed upon by Executors and Appraisors and signed by them and then filed here indefinitely if not called for by Court.

Reports to various States showing properties therein have been drawn up and will be soon submitted for signatures of executors and then mailed.

In only one foreign State - Delaware - will any tax be payable, and that only some $30.00, as we judge now.

Exemptions in all other states offset the appraised values.

Approximate total tax, New Jersey and Federal, has been calculated on different values for the Estate - from $270,000 to $900,000 tax.

Calculations have been made and several plans for paying this tax have been proposed and will shortly be presented.

It has been proposed that excess cash in banks - deposits as of October 18 less expenditures increased by interest on bonds, etc. - be invested temporarily, thereby gaining more interest than banks allow on checking accounts.

Liberty 4ths 4¼ seem to be most practical and authority is asked to make the investment.

As of March 15 total cash on hand	$149,700
Actually available - - - - - -	105,700
Proposed investment - - - - - -	90,000

Matters which should be considered and acted upon:

(1) Oxford Quarry Property

Agreement allowing Cement Corporation to mine and withdraw rock, also operate Pohatoong Railroad, without charge, providing Corporation pays all taxes, etc. - Messrs. Allen and Lanahan.
Mrs. Edison's 1/3 dower right should be taken into consideration.
Mr. Lanahan to have Mr. Sylvester Smith appraise property as farm land.

(2) Canadian Nickel Property

Come to some agreement as to closing up of Company and disposal of land now in Mr. Edison's name.
Mr. McCarter considering the matter as presented by Mr. Lanahan Feb. 29th.

(3) Trust Fund

(a) Determine what Trust Company to use.
Suggested companies:
Central-Hanover Bank & Trust Co., New York City
Fidelity Union Trust Co., Newark.

(b) Draw up form of trust - consulting with officers of Trust Company. Have same ready to put into effect when proper time comes.

(4) Payment of Transfer Tax

Consider and settle on some plan for payment of taxes - New Jersey and Federal.
Various plans proposed will be shortly submitted.

Copies to:
Mr. Charles Edison
Mrs. Edison
Mr. Lanahan
Mr. Allen
Mr. Eckert
Mr. Miller
File

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[F5F23AC], Letter from John Vincent Miller to Charles Edison, Ralph Henry Allen, Theodore Miller Edison, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, Henry Lanahan, Howard Haines Eckert, April 26th, 1932

Title
[F5F23AC], Letter from John Vincent Miller to Charles Edison, Ralph Henry Allen, Theodore Miller Edison, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, Henry Lanahan, Howard Haines Eckert, April 26th, 1932

Author
Miller, John Vincent

Recipient

- Edison, Charles
- Allen, Ralph Henry
- Edison, Theodore Miller
- Edison, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.)
- Lanahan, Henry
- Eckert, Howard Haines

Mentioned

- Mining Exploration Company of New Jersey
- Miller, Harry Frederick
- Lybrand, William Mitchell

Date
1932-04-26

Type
Letter

Subject

- Edison-Miller family
- TAE will and estate
- Stocks, bonds, and investments

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F5F23-F

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26 April 1932

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ESTATE OF THOMAS A. EDISON

April 26, 1932.

To Mrs. T. A. Edison
Messrs. Charles Edison
Theodore M. Edison
R. H. Allen
H. H. Eckert
H. Lanahan:

Since the last report, dated March 15, the following work has been done:

(1) Investment of excess cash.

$100,000 face value- 4th Liberty Loan Bonds have been purchased from Thomas A. Edison, Inc., at price of 102.50.

There is a controversy on this price between Mr. H. F. Miller, Treasurer, and the writer.

(2) The reports to Surrogate Court showing assets in the estate has been typed and submitted to Executors. The formal signatures have not as yet been executed, as there is a question on one item, namely, amount due from Mining Exploration Co. of New Jersey. Decision by Mr. Lanahan is being awaited.

(3) The Tax Returns to various States have been typed, but there are a few questions still open. These questions have been submitted to Lybrand for decision and instructions. Should be answered this week.

Yours truly,

J. V. Miller

JVM/IWW

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[F5F23AD], Letter from John Vincent Miller to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, November 10th, 1932

Title
[F5F23AD], Letter from John Vincent Miller to Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.) Edison, November 10th, 1932

Author
Miller, John Vincent

Recipient
Edison, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.)

Mentioned

- Pennsylvania Railroad
- Gregory, Julian Arthur
- Laing, James

Date
1932-11-10

Type
Letter

Subject

- Edison-Miller family
- TAE will and estate
- Taxes
- Stocks, bonds, and investments

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Mrs. Edison — Nov. 10, 32

Re 10-5th Ave —

According to the agreement discribed to us by Mr. Gregory and which you approved you are to pay the new York City tax — 1st half of 1931 — out of the railroad bonds put up as security by Mr. Silverman —

Today we ordered the remaining bonds, four — $1000 Penn. R.R., sold and proceeds placed to your account at Mech. Orange bank —

As soon as these are sold and deposit made Mr Laing is to make out a check to the tax authorities & bring it to you for signature —

J.V. Miller

Will you kindly attend to it as soon as possible as any delay will cause recalculation of interest etc.

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[F5F23AD1], Publication, Theodore Miller Edison, Charles Edison, 1932

Title
[F5F23AD1], Publication, Theodore Miller Edison, Charles Edison, 1932

Editor's Notes
Supplied year

Author

- Edison, Charles
- Edison, Theodore Miller

Mentioned

- Essex County Country Club
- Edison (Thomas A.) Inc
- Yardley, Farnham
- Bredt, Edward Arthur
- Edison, Mina Miller (Mrs Thomas A.)
- Edison, Thomas Alva
- Llewellyn Park Improvement Assn

Date
1932-00-00

Type
Publication

Subject

- Awards & honors/clubs & societies
- TAE will and estate
- Property
- Stocks, bonds, and investments
- Automobiles and trucks
- Metals and minerals

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COPY

To all the children.

Dear :

Among the residuary assets of Father's estate are a few small items which we would like to clear up by selling for cash, as it would be impractical to try to divide them. Before any are disposed of, however, we want to advise you of the disposition we have in mind, so that if Mother or any one of the children is interested in any item he or she could advise us.

Stock in Llewellyn Park Improvement Association

There are ten shares of this stock. The company was organized by Farnham Yardley and others, to take over land bordering the Park between Mrs. A. D. Smith and Mr. A. Bredt, to prevent the building of speculative and cheap houses, near the Park. The par value is $100.00 per share. Appraised value of these shares $1,000.

We have been told that some estates have sold their holdings at $100.00 per share, and also that possibly some other stockholder might be interested in buying the stock at par. We desire to sell this stock, and offer it first to Mother and the children at this price and for cash.

Essex County Country Club

We desire to dispose of this membership, and in accordance with the restriction contained in the by-laws of the Club offer it first to Mother for the sum of $250.00, at which it has been appraised by the Estate appraisers. See excerpt from Club's letter attached.

South Dakota Mining Claims - Lithium Prospect

Lithium Mining Claims located in South Dakota. These claims were obtained by Father in 1920 and 1923, when our supply of lithium for the Storage Battery was in jeopardy.

Although the purchase price was $9,536.00 the assessed value, per tax bills, is only $3,420.00. The claims have never been developed beyond the original prospecting, which amounted to very little, and probably never will be developed as far as we are concerned.

The purchase of these claims, having had the desired effect on the suppliers of our lithium requirements, practically no interest has since been taken in the property. The world's demand for lithium is very small and to find a prospective buyer, open up the deposits to prove values and close a deal, would take considerable time and money.

Thomas A. Edison, Inc. has offered to buy the property for $2,000.00 cash, and as we believe this is a fair price, even under normal business conditions, we recommend the sale. Does this meet with your approval?

Automobiles at Glenmont

The following automobiles are listed among the assets of the estate and are in the garage at Glenmont. As you know, these are old machines and are of practically no commercial value. A large sentimental value is doubtless placed on them by Mother.

Detroit Electric - Brougham, 1914
Detroit Electric - Victoria, 1911
Ford Touring - Model T, 1922
Lincoln Touring - Model 1923.

We suggest that these automobiles be given or sold to Mother at the nominal price of $1.00 each, so that bills of sale may be issued.

If we receive no offers or objections according to the above suggestions by December 1st we shall proceed to carry them out as indicated.

Yours faithfully,

Executors

[ATTACHMENT/ENCLOSURE]

( )

Excerpt from letter of the Secretary of the Essex County Country Club, dated October 20, 1932, quoting from Articles of By-Laws regarding transfer of membership.

- - - - - - - - - - - - -

"Article IV - Transfer of Membership

'Section 7. In the event of the termination of the membership of a Resident member by death, his proprietary certificate upon request of his legal representatives, may be transferred to his widow, who upon her own application, may be elected to the membership of her husband, without the payment of iniation fee or dues for the current period.'

Article VII, covering transfer of Broprietary Certificates, reads in part as follows:

'Section 3. . . . or that upon termination of his Resident membership, the record holder (or his personal representatives), is entitled to receive from a new member acquiring his Proprietary Certificate, the aggregate amount of capital assessments credited to his capital assessment account, less any charges against such retiring member, in the manner hereinafter stated.'

If Mrs. Edison wishes to continue the membership of Mr. Edison, will you please have her write a letter to the Board of Governors, in accordance with Section 7 of Article IV quoted above? The next meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday, December 15th.

If Mrs. Edison does not wish to make application for election to Resident membership, having the Certificate transferred to her, it will be transferred to a new member.

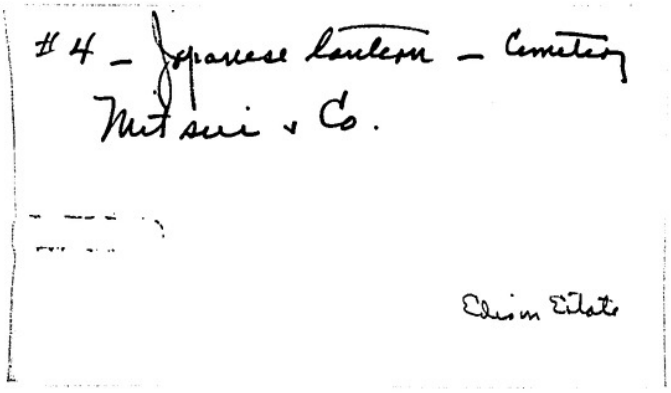
. . . . . .

There is a tax of 10% or $50, on transferring this Certificate, which the Club has been endeavoring to convince the Treasury Department should not apply to such transfer, but so far has been unsuccessful, and we have no option but to collect it. If Mrs. Edison has the Certificate transferred to her, she will, therefore, have to pay this tax."

. . . . . .

In regard to the transfer to another member in the event that Mrs. Edison does not avial herself of the privilege, for the last few months there have not been enough incoming members to fill the places of retiring members, so the transfers are not working automatically the way they have been for the last five years, and the Certificates are placed on a list in regular order in accordance with their receipt".

[ATTACHMENT/ENCLOSURE]



Attribution

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[F5F23AE], Publication, McCarter and English, Charles Edison, Theodore Miller Edison, July 12th, 1935

Title
[F5F23AE], Publication, McCarter and English, Charles Edison, Theodore Miller Edison, July 12th, 1935

Author

- McCarter and English
- Edison, Charles
- Edison, Theodore Miller

Mentioned

- Essex County (N.J.). Surrogate
- Edison, Thomas Alva, (Estate)

Date
1935-07-12

Type
Publication

Subject

- Finances (TAE and family)
- TAE will and estate

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ESSEX COUNTY ORPHANS' COURT

NOTICE OF SETTLEMENT

Notice is hereby given that the accounts of the subscribers, Charles Edison and Theodore M. Edison, as co-executors, and the accounts of the subscriber, Charles Edison, as sole executor, of the Estate of Thomas A. Edison, deceased, will be audited and stated by the Surrogate and reported for settlement to the Orphans' Court of the County of Essex, to be holden at the Hall of Records, in the City of Newark, New Jersey, on Tuesday, the 13th day of August, next, at 10 A.M., and that application will at that time be made by accountant, Charles Edison, for the allowance of commissions of $85,000., and the proctors for the accountants will make application at that time for the allowance of a counsel fee of $30,000.

Your presence is not necessary at the above time unless you care to enter some objection to the accounting or to the allowance of the fees requested.

The account will be on file in the Surrogate's Office twenty days before the time fixed in this notice, and you are privileged to examine the same.

Dated, Newark, N.J.
July 12, 1935.

CHARLES EDISON

THEODORE M. EDISON

McCarter & English, Proctors.

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[F5F23AF], Publication, McCarter and English, Charles Edison, Theodore Miller Edison, August 7th, 1935

Title
[F5F23AF], Publication, McCarter and English, Charles Edison, Theodore Miller Edison, August 7th, 1935

Author

- McCarter and English
- Edison, Charles
- Edison, Theodore Miller

Mentioned
Edison, Thomas Alva, (Estate)

Date
1935-08-07

Type
Publication

Subject
TAE will and estate

Folder ID
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PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the settlement of the accounts of Charles Edison and Theodore M. Edison as Co-executors and the accounts of Charles Edison as sole Executor of the Estate of Thomas A. Edison, deceased, has been postponed from August 13, 1935 until Tuesday, the 10th day of September, 1935 at 10 A. M. at the Orphans' Court of the County of Essex to be holden at the Hall of Records in the City of Newark, New Jersey, and that application will at that time be made for commissions and counsel fees as set forth in the notice of settlement dated July 12, 1935.

Dated: Newark, N. J.
August 7, 1935

CHARLES EDISON
THEODORE M. EDISON

By McCarter & English
Their Proctors